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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,243	03/30/2001	Teruhiro Yamada	263/124	6328

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/823,243	Applicant(s) YAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Anh Ly	Art Unit 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is response to applicants' communication filed on 03/30/2001.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Priority

3. Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, a translation of the foreign application should be submitted under 37 CFR 1.55 in reply to this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

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the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,870,741 issued to Kawabe et al. (hereinafter Kawabe) in view of US Patent No. 6,370,523 issued to Anderson.

With respect to claim 1, Kawabe teaches an inputting unit which receives an input of a key word straightforwardly describing information to be searched by a user, and a place-name to apply a regional restriction to searching (information input unit that inputs information and an information database that stores the information along with the corresponding attribute information as a place location database: col. 2, lines 38-40 and lines 42-46; also see abstract and col. 7, lines 30-60; also see fig. 6);

a selecting unit which selects a place-name of a region that is judged to be within a reachable area from a region indicated by the inputted place-name on the basis of a predefined judgment criterion (the input string as a search key, which is parsed into keys associated with place name or region, is then sent to place location database to retrieve the matching record from the database as an output information: col. 10, lines 10-22); and

a searching unit, which searches the information by using the query expression (searching information unit using to search and output the target information: col. 5, lines 14-18).

Kawabe teaches a mobile information processing device is defined as a mobile object that performs information processing. The input information is inputted from information processing devices connecting to the network systems. The information input from a mobile object is registered to the database with a user-specified keyword each time a user input information, from which the information is searched using the keywords or the search information that includes the keywords. A search key or search term is accepted by search key input unit, the output is received based on the search information and the search unit sends search information to the information database and transfers the search results to the output unit which output the search results. Kawabe does not clearly teach a setting unit which sets a logical multiplication of a logical addition of the inputted place-name and the selected place-name, and the key word, as a query expression.

However, Anderson teaches using the selection criteria and proximity of the perimeter of the coverage areas to the reference point, as Boolean expression such as logical operator of "AND" or "OR": abstract, fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 30-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kawabe with the teachings of Anderson by incorporating the use of Boolean logical operator in the search term in order to determine a location of the reference point based upon the

provided information (col. 4, lines 30-35). The motivation being to have allowed the use of Boolean logical operators in the search term in order to get the specific regions that can be searched and retrieved in the information retrieval system using geographical regions/areas information for searching.

With respect to claim 2, Kawabe teaches an inputting unit which receives a search term inputted by a user for searching information, an extracting unit which extracts a place-name: from the inputted search term, a selecting unit which selects a place-name of a region that is judged to be within a reachable area from a region indicated by the extracted place-name on the basis of a predefined judgment criterion, and a searching unit which searches the information by using the query expression (information input unit that inputs information and an information database that stores the information along with the corresponding attribute information as a place location database: col. 2, lines 38-40 and lines 42-46; also see abstract and col. 7, lines 30-60; also see fig. 6; parsing or decomposing or decoding the search string into some attributes or morphemes or nouns that match with the database record stored in the place location database: col. 11, lines 32-58; the input string as a search key, which is parsed into keys associated with place name or region, is then sent to place location database to retrieve the matching record from the database as an output information: col. 10, lines 10-22; and searching information unit using to search and output the target information: col. 5, lines 14-18).

Kawabe teaches a mobile information processing device is defined as a mobile object that performs information processing. The input information is inputted from

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information processing devices connecting to the network systems. The information input from a mobile object is registered to the database with a user-specified keyword each time a user input information, from which the information is searched using the keywords or the search information that includes the keywords. A search key or search term is accepted by search key input unit, the output is received based on the search information and the search unit sends search information to the information database and transfers the search results to the output unit which output the search results. Kawabe does not clearly teach a setting unit which sets a query expression including a logical addition of the extracted place-name and the selected place-name.

However, Anderson teaches using the selection criteria and proximity of the perimeter of the coverage areas to the reference point, as Boolean expression such as logical operator of "AND" or "OR": abstract, fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 30-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kawabe with the teachings of Anderson by incorporating the use of Boolean logical operator in the search term in order to determine a location of the reference point based upon the provided information (col. 4, lines 30-35). The motivation being to have allowed the use of Boolean logical operators in the search term in order to get the specific regions that can be searched and retrieved in the information retrieval system using geographical regions/areas information for searching.

With respect to claim 3, Kawabe teaches wherein said selecting unit selects a place-name of a region within the reachable area by using a transfer means of the user

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as a determining factor (the inputted information is decoding and using the matching processing to match the inputted term or keyword or place-name with the place location database,. The place location database compares the place location within each of the place location coordinate records and if match, the coordinate filed of the record is added to the output coordinate list: col. 10, lines 10-22 and see fig. 5).

With respect to claim 4, Kawabe teaches wherein said selecting unit selects a place-name of a region within the reachable area by using a transfer means of the user as a determining factor (the inputted information is decoding and using the matching processing to match the inputted term or keyword or place-name with the place location database,. The place location database compares the place location within each of the place location coordinate records and if match, the coordinate filed of the record is added to the output coordinate list: col. 10, lines 10-22 and see fig. 5).

With respect to claim 5, Kawabe teaches further comprising a table which stores a place-name associated with absolute location information of a region indicated by the place-name, and wherein said selecting unit chooses from said table a place-name of a region from which the region indicated by the inputted place-name is far within a predefined distance, by using the absolute location information (place location database is used to match and compare the inputted location information of a region indicated by place name: longitude and latitude from GPS device, col. 7, lines 50-55 and col. 6, lines 12-20).

With respect to claim 6, Kawabe teaches further comprising a table which stores a place-name associated with absolute location information of a region indicated by the

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place-name, and wherein said selecting unit chooses from said table a place-name of a region from which the region indicated by the inputted place-name is far within a predefined distance, by using the absolute location information (place location database is used to match and compare the inputted location information of a region indicated by place name: longitude and latitude from GPS device, col. 7, lines 50-55 and col. 6, lines 12-20).

With respect to claims 7-8, Kawabe teaches an information retrieval apparatus as discussed in claim 2.

Kawabe teaches a mobile information processing device is defined as a mobile object that performs information processing. The input information is inputted from information processing devices connecting to the network systems. The information input from a mobile object is registered to the database with a user-specified keyword each time a user input information, from which the information is searched using the keywords or the search information that includes the keywords. A search key or search term is accepted by search key input unit, the output is received based on the search information and the search unit sends search information to the information database and transfers the search results to the output unit which output the search results. Kawabe does not clearly teach further comprising a table which stores a proximity relation between regions indicated by place-names and further comprising a table which stores a inclusion relation between regions indicated by place-names.

However, Anderson teaches using the selection criteria and proximity of the perimeter of the coverage areas to the reference point, as Boolean expression such as logical operator of "AND" or "OR": abstract, fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 30-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kawabe with the teachings of Anderson by incorporating the use of Boolean logical operator in the search term in order to determine a location of the reference point based upon the provided information (col. 4, lines 30-35). The motivation being to have allowed the use of Boolean logical operators in the search term in order to get the specific regions that can be searched and retrieved in the information retrieval system using geographical regions/areas information for searching.

With respect to claim 10, Kawabe teaches providing an interface for a user to input a search term for searching information (using the user interface to input search term: col. 32-40); obtaining the search term inputted via the interface (using graphical user interface to get the search term from the user: col. 16, lines 52-67; extracting a place-name from the search term, selecting a place-name of a region that is judged to be within a reachable area from a region indicated by the place-name on the basis of a predefined judgment criterion, and searching the information by using the query expression (information input unit that inputs information and an information database that stores the information along with the corresponding attribute information as a place location database: col. 2, lines 38-40 and lines 42-46; also see abstract and col. 7, lines 30-60; also see fig. 6; decoding the search string into some attribute that matches with

the database record stored in the place location database: col. 11, lines 32-58; the input string as a search key, which is parsed into keys associated with place name or region, is then sent to place location database to retrieve the matching record from the database as an output information: col. 10, lines 10-22; and searching information unit using to search and output the target information: col. 5, lines 14-18).

Kawabe teaches a mobile information processing device is defined as a mobile object that performs information processing. The input information is inputted from information processing devices connecting to the network systems. The information input from a mobile object is registered to the database with a user-specified keyword each time a user input information, from which the information is searched using the keywords or the search information that includes the keywords. A search key or search term is accepted by search key input unit, the output is received based on the search information and the search unit sends search information to the information database and transfers the search results to the output unit which output the search results. Kawabe does not clearly teach a setting unit which sets a query expression including a logical addition of the extracted place-name and the selected place-name.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kawabe with the teachings of Anderson by incorporating the use of Boolean logical operator in the search term in order to determine a location of the reference point based upon the provided information (col. 4, lines 30-35). The motivation being to have allowed the use of Boolean logical operators in the search term in order to get the specific regions that

can be searched and retrieved in the information retrieval system using geographical regions/areas information for searching.

7. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,870,741 issued to Kawabe et al. (hereinafter Kawabe) in view of US Patent No. 6,370,523 issued to Anderson and further in view of US Patent No. 5,991,735 issued to Gerace.

With respect to claim 9, Kawabe in view of Anderson discloses an information retrieval apparatus as discussed in claim 2.

Sheppard and Zimmerman disclose substantially the invention as claimed. However, Sheppard and Zimmermann do not teach wherein said inputting unit receives personal information of the user, and said selecting unit selects the place-name after modifying the reachable area using the personal information.

However, Gerace teaches personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kawabe in view of Anderson with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the user and

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maintain the user profile for each user and to have allowed the use of Boolean logical operators in the search term in order to get the specific regions that can be searched and retrieved in the information retrieval system using geographical regions/areas information for searching.

8. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.6,381,603 issued to Chan et al. (hereinafter Chan) in view of US Patent No. 5,991,735 issued to Gerace.

With respect to claim 11, Chan teaches obtaining information related to a location of a user (the location of user's mobile phone or the user's current position: col. 2, lines 54-62 and col. 3, lines 4-6 and lines 10-15); and

obtaining information related to a destination of the user (the searching area information or the location that user specified: col. 55-60 and col. 3, lines 5-28).

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area

constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach extracting an item of life-related information and searching life-related information.

However, Gerace teaches personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claim 12, Chan teaches obtaining information related to a destination of the user (the searching area information or the location that user specified: col. 55-60 and col. 3, lines 5-28).

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and

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the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach storing an item of life-related information and searching life-related information.

However, Gerace teaches personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claims 13-14, Chan teaches an information retrieval method as discussed in claim 11 and 12.

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and

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the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach Further comprising inquiring of the user about a generic name corresponding to the item when the item of the life-related information is given as a specific name and the life-related information with regionality at the destination corresponding to the specific name is not found.

However, Gerace teaches geographic, demographic, lifestyle information, personal information, personals advertisements, company name , and information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; col. 8, lines 26-37, col. 9, lines 64-65 and col. 10, lines 1-8; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claims 15-16, Chan teaches an information retrieval method as discussed in claim 11 and 12.

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving

information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach further comprising providing the user with recommendable information chosen from the searched information when the item of the life-related information is given as a generic name.

However, Gerace teaches personals advertisements, real estate advertisements and personals page, and information about the user (col. 9, lines 64-65 and col. 10, lines 1-8; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claim 17, Chan teaches storing a personal attribute of a user (the user of merchandise data within a given area from merchandise database: col. 4, lines 62-67 and col. 6, lines 6-10); and

obtaining information related to a destination of the user (the searching area information or the location that user specified: col. 55-60 and col. 3, lines 5-28).

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach a personal attribute of a user, searching life-related information with regionality at the destination by using the personal attribute without receiving a search item from the user.

However, Gerace teaches user activity , users' interest and user's preferences (col. 2, lines 52-60 and col. 4, lines 58-67 and col. 5, lines 1-8); personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claim 18, Chan teaches a destination obtaining unit which obtains information related to a destination of a user (GSP device or receiver is used to position the user's location or user's terminal such as personal computer, notebook, mobile/portable telephone or PDA or mobile device information with the position coordinates including longitude and latitude: col. 6, lines 6-10); and

a transmitting unit, which transmits the searched life-related information to a terminal of the user (transmitting the search results to the user: col. 7, lines 4-15).

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search

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results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach a life-related information storing unit which stores an item of life-related information a searching unit which searches life-related information.

However, Gerace teaches personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claim 19, Chan teaches a location obtaining unit which obtains information related to a location of the user (GSP device or receiver is used to position the user's location or user's terminal such as personal computer, notebook, mobile/portable telephone or PDA or mobile device information with the position coordinates including longitude and latitude: col. 6, lines 6-10).

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the

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location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach a search history storing unit which stores a history about information searched by the user, an extracting unit which extracts an item of life-related information, and wherein said life-related information storing unit stores the extracted item of the life-related information.

However, Gerace teaches recorded history of views viewing the ads in a history profiling table storing an indication of a user's action: col. 2, lines 50-52 and lines 62-67); personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

With respect to claim 20, Chan teaches a location obtaining unit which obtains information related to a location of the user (GSP device or receiver is used to position the user's location or user's terminal such as personal computer, notebook,

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mobile/portable telephone or PDA or mobile device information with the position coordinates including longitude and latitude: col. 6, lines 6-10); and

a communication unit which transmits information related to a destination of the user and the extracted item to a server, and receives life-related information with regionality at the destination that is searched by the sever (computer network with communication device and information server to form a Internet network : see fig. 1 and fig. 2, col. 4, lines 35-58).

Chan teaches accessing local information, which is stored in a database including position information and description information, and storing and retrieving information located at or close to a location. The information in the database would be up-to-date, the location could be an address or the position coordinates of Global Position System (GPS). The GPS device could obtain the location of user and the location in a user specified area. The query from user is for searching the location and the searching area in the user query is derived from a position and searching area constraint input by user and the information in the database containing GPS position coordinate information from which the search is an accurate search and the search results with the information position coordinates are useful for navigation and routing applications. Chan does not clearly teach a search history storing unit which stores a history about information searched by the user, an extracting unit which extracts an item of life-related information, and wherein said life-related information storing unit stores the extracted item of the life-related information.

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However, Gerace teaches recorded history of views viewing the ads in a history profiling table storing an indication of a user's action: col. 2, lines 50-52 and lines 62-67); personal information, demographic and lifestyle information about the user (col. 6, lines 22-38 and lines 55-60; also see fig. 3A and 3B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chan with the teachings of Gerace by incorporating the use of personal information as input information as well as enabling to modify the reachable area by using the personal information. The motivation being to enable for identifying the location of user in order for easing to get the searching area where it could be close to the user's current position in real-time.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is 703 306-4527 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on 703 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 746-7239.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: Central Fax Center (703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-6606 or 703 305-3900.


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ANH LY 
AUG. 18th, 2004